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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/680,118	10/08/2003	Natsushi Miura	26H-006	4696
23400	7590	05/20/2005		EXAMINER
POSZ LAW GROUP, PLC 12040 SOUTH LAKES DRIVE SUITE 101 RESTON, VA 20191				MEREK, JOSEPH C
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
				3727

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1- 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anhegger et al (US 4,813,453) in view of Jenkins et al (US 4,813,453). Regarding claims 1-5, Anhegger et al as seen in Fig. 1 and 3, teaches the claimed structure but does not teach the flange on the neck fixed to the vehicle. Jenkins et al as seen in Fig. 2, teaches a similar structure where the neck has a flange fixed to the vehicle. It would have been obvious to employ the flange of Jenkins et al in the pipe of Anhegger et al to provide a simple and quick way to mount the pipe to the vehicle. Jenkins et al mounts the flange adjacent the threads of the insert and above the sealing between the insert and the outer pipe. The sealing member in the modified pipe of Anhegger et al is closer to the tank than the flange as taught by Jenkins et al.

Claims 1- 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anhegger et al (US 4,813,453) in view of Hubbard et al (US 4,185,844). Regarding claims 1-5, Anhegger et al as seen in Fig. 1 and 3, teaches the claimed structure but does not teach the flange on the neck fixed to the vehicle. Hubbard et al, as seen in

Fig. 2, teaches a similar structure where the plastic neck has an integral flange 20 mounted at the top of the neck adjacent the threads for securing to the vehicle. It would have been obvious to employ the integral flange of Hubbard et al in the neck of Anhegger et al to provide a simple and quick way to mount the pipe to the vehicle. The sealing member will be closer to the tank than the flange is to the tank.

### ***Conclusion***

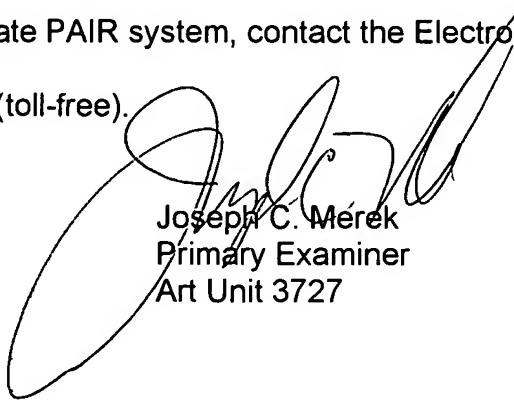
Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph C. Merek whose telephone number is 571 272-4542. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lee Young can be reached on (571) 272-4549. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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Art Unit 3727